

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for inputting a text comprising:

(a) a step of continuously inputting an a sentence by utterance;

(b) a step of preparing word-string determining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words based on one to several words, starting from a beginning of the inputted utterance by speech recognition processing;

(c) a step of displaying the candidates; and

(d) a step of selecting the displayed candidate by a user;

whereby, for a following utterance, the inputted utterance is recognized by which said candidate preparing determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated in order on the basis of the selected candidate unit of the word-string from a beginning of the inputted utterance.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for inputting a text according to claim 2,22, wherein said candidate preparing determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidate due to an acoustic score.

4. (Original) A method for inputting a text according to claim 3, wherein said extension process is ended by reaching of the number of phrase candidates subjected to said extension process a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

5. (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text comprising:

an input section for inputting an utterance;

an utterance pre-processing section for extracting a feature amount of an utterance of from said input section;

a word candidate preparing section for preparing a following word candidate from a fixed word string by using a language model;

a word-string preparing section for preparing a word-string candidate based on one to several words from the extracted feature amount the word candidate by using at least any one of a language model and an acoustic model;

a display section for displaying the word-string candidate;

an operating section for a user to select the word-string candidate being displayed; and

a candidate-preparation instructing section for instructing said word candidate preparing section to prepare a following word candidate from a word string selected by said operating section.

6. (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 5, wherein said word-string preparing section prepares a phrase-based candidate by an extension process to repeat word linking according to word-based linkage probability.

7. (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 6, wherein said word-string preparing section further having an updating process due to an acoustic score.

8. (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 7, wherein said word-string preparing section ends the extension process by reaching of the number of phrase candidate subjected to the extension process a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

9. (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 5, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.
10. (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 6, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.
11. (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 7, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.
12. (Original) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 8, wherein said apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.
13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for providing a program to repeat in order:
 - (a) a step of ~~continuously~~ inputting an-a sentence by utterance;
 - (b) a step of ~~preparing word-string~~determining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words by speech recognition processing based on one to several words, starting from a beginning of the inputted utterance;
 - (c) a step of displaying the candidates; and
 - (d) a step of selecting the displayed candidate by a user;

whereby, for a following utterance, the inputted utterance is recognized by which said candidate preparing-determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated in order on the basis of the selected candidatea unit of the word-string from a beginning of the inputted utterance.
14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for providing a program according to claim 1413, wherein said candidate preparing-determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidate due to an acoustic score.

16. (Original) A storage medium for providing a program according to claim 15, wherein said extension process is ended by reaching of the number of phrase candidates subjected to said extension process a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product to repeat in order:

(a) a step of continuously inputting an-a sentence by utterance;

(b) a step of preparing-word-stringdetermining candidates of word-strings which consist of one or more words by speech recognition processing based on one to several words, staring from a beginning of the inputted utterance;

(c) a step of displaying the candidates; and

(d) a step of selecting the displayed candidate by a user;

whereby, for a following utterance, the inputted utterance is recognized by which said candidate preparing-determining step (b), said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d) are repeated in order on the basis of the selected candidate unit of the word-string from a beginning of the inputted utterance.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product according to claim 1817, wherein said candidate preparing-determining step (b) further having a process to update the candidate due to an acoustic score.

20. (Original) A computer program product according to claim 19, wherein said extension process is ended by reaching of the number of phrase candidates subjected to said extension process a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.
21. (New) A method for inputting a text according to claim 1, wherein said candidate determining step (b) determines a word-string on the basis of a language information and an acoustic information of the selected word-strings when there are preselected word strings.
22. (New) A method for inputting a text according to claims 1 or 21, wherein said word-strings is a phrase built by an extension process to repeat word linking according to a word-based linkage probability on said candidate determining step (b).